

REMARKS

Upon entry of this paper, no claims have been amended, claims 6 and 7 have been canceled, and no claims have been added as new claims. Thus, claims 1-5 are presently pending in this application. No new matter has been added. The cancellation of claims 6 and 7 should in no way be construed to be an acquiescence to any of the rejections stated. Claims 6 and 7 are being canceled solely to expedite the prosecution of the present application. Applicant reserves the option to further prosecute the same or similar claims in the instant or a subsequent patent application.

Applicant gratefully thanks the examiner for the indication of the allowability of claims 1-5 as stated in the official office action. Applicant has canceled claims 6 and 7 upon entry of this amendment, thus placing this application in condition for allowance. Action to that end is kindly requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102(b)*Claims 6 and 7*

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kono (US Patent No. 6,135,196). Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled upon entry of this amendment. Accordingly, claims 6 and 7 no longer stand rejected.

In light of the cancellation of claims 6 and 7, Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining claims of the present invention are indicated by the Examiner as being in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant courteously solicits allowance of the claims in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Should there be any further outstanding issues of patentability following the entry of this amendment, a telephone interview is respectfully requested to resolve such issues.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to our Deposit Account No. 12-0080. In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith, and the requisite petition does not accompany this response, the undersigned hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized to be charged to the aforementioned Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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